Use Risk Management at Station and Company Levels

Risk management is the process of making operations safer without compromising the mission. It's a tool that allows soldiers to operate successfully in high-risk environments. Leaders at every level have the responsibility to identify hazards, to take measures to reduce or eliminate those hazards, and to accept risk only to the point that the benefits outweigh the potential costs.

Risk management is the process of identifying, assessing, and controlling hazards arising from operational factors and making decisions that balance the risk costs with mission benefits. It is a systematic five-step process that can be applied to any situation, program, or environment. It is a continuous process in that as variables change, the process starts over from the beginning. Great latitude is afforded for the commander to accomplish the recruiting mission through use of risk management.

1. Identify the hazards.
2. Assess the hazards.
3. Develop controls and make risk decision.
4. Implement controls.
5. Supervise and evaluate.

The Commanding General recently reiterated the requirement that every level of leadership conduct and enforce use of the risk management process. Specifically, he has noticed the need for more emphasis and enforcement of risk management at station and company levels. With the current operational environment and recent events at recruiting stations, it is even more critical that we are focused on safety and the risk management process. Leaders are responsible for protecting the force and must take the time to ensure this is accomplished to standard.

Advantages of risk management for leaders:

— Detect risks before losses.
— Quantify risk.
— Provide risk control alternatives.
— Better decisions.
— Greater integration of safety.
— Increased mission capability.

Risk management is a smart decision-making process, a way of thinking through a mission to balance training needs against risks in terms of accident losses. Once understood, it is a way to put more realism into training without paying a price in deaths, injuries, and damaged equipment.

The Army Chief of Staff has directed that all soldiers and civilian workers be trained in risk management. The U.S. Army Recruiting Command ensures risk management training is conducted annually at the safety stand-down days.

Commanders or equivalent are the risk management experts and will ensure risk management is implemented into all aspects of USAREC mission planning. Commanders will ensure that all military and civilian employees within their commands receive risk management training. Commanders will ensure all contractors teach and instruct their employees on the Army risk management process. The USAREC risk management form is USAREC Form 1144 - Rev 1.

It is mandatory for all USAREC personnel to conduct a risk assessment before operating a GOV. USAREC Form 1144 -Rev 1 is a tool to assist leaders in identifying and assessing hazards and is to remain in the GOV logbook at all times. Operators are required to keep another copy in their planning guides for immediate use. All operators are responsible for knowing how to use risk management and USAREC Form 1144 - Rev 1.

Risk management provides a logical and systematic means of organizing information for rational decision making in order identify and control risk. Risk management offers individuals and organizations a powerful tool for eliminating accidents and increasing effectiveness. This process has the advantage of being accessible to and usable by everyone in every setting or scenario. It ensures that all Army personnel will have a voice in the critical decisions that determine success or failure in all our missions and activities, on- and off-duty.

For more information visit the Risk Management Web sites: United States Army Safety Center at http://safety.army.mil; Field Manual 100-14, Risk Management, at http://www.adtdl.army.mil/cgi-bin/atdl.dll/fm/100-14/default.htm.